



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# Iowa DNR News

## Conservation and Recreation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 13, 2018

- [DNR to eliminate common carp and gizzard shad at Easter Lake](#)
- [Banner and Butch Olofson shooting ranges open Black Friday](#)

## DNR to eliminate common carp and gizzard shad at Easter Lake

Des Moines - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Polk County Conservation Board, City of Des Moines, Polk Soil & Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship – Division of Soil Conservation, and other partners started working in 2008 to improve habitat and water quality at Easter Lake on the southeast edge of Des Moines.

Over 200 best management practices (BMPs) have been installed on residential properties in the Easter Lake watershed. Practices installed include urban storm water management practices, ponds built around the lake to trap nutrients and sediment, and stabilizing the streambank along Yeader Creek. In-lake work includes deepening and stabilizing the shoreline, installing fish habitat, removing excess sediment, and building an in-lake silt pond. Additionally, a fish rearing pond was built near the lake, the outlet structure of the lake was updated to include a fish barrier to prevent undesirable fish from coming back into Easter Lake, and the gate-valve structure was replaced.

As the lake restoration project nears completion, one of the final steps is to remove Common Carp and Gizzard Shad from Easter Lake and the watershed. These species have detrimental impacts to aquatic vegetation, the fishery, and water quality.

The Iowa DNR plans to treat Easter Lake and its watershed next Tuesday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> (pending workable weather conditions) with rotenone, a botanical pesticide, which is the most effective management way to remove all of the fish from a waterbody or stream.

Private property owners next to treatable water will be notified about 24 hours before the treatment with hangers on their doors. Avoid human and pet contact with water in the

treatment area until notified by a 2<sup>nd</sup> notification on your door. It will likely take 24 to 48 hours for the rotenone to dissolve in flowing streams. However, it could take days or weeks in ponds and the main lake. Treated public areas will be closed to public use until the area reopens for public access.

Rotenone is used world-wide and has been since the 1930s. It is a common tool that fisheries managers use for managing sport fish, improving water quality, and managing endangered species. Rotenone is a naturally occurring compound that comes from the roots of a tropical plant in the bean family. The Iowa DNR commonly uses the commercially available formulation, 5% Preenfish, which has been approved for fisheries management by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The EPA has concluded that the use of rotenone for fish control does not present a risk of unreasonable adverse effects to humans or the environment. The EPA certifies all pesticides based on use according to label directions, which the Iowa DNR is equipped to fulfill these obligations.

For more information about rotenone and a map of the treatment area go to <https://easterlake.org/project-updates/fisheries-renovations-rotenone-treatment/>

Media Contact: Alex Murphy, DNR Director of Communications, [Alex.Murphy@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Alex.Murphy@dnr.iowa.gov), 515-729-7533

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## Banner and Butch Olofson shooting ranges open Black Friday

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has a solution for those wanting to avoid the holiday tradition of standing in long checkout lines on the day after Thanksgiving – the Banner and Butch Olofson shooting ranges will be open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Black Friday. As an added incentive, the DNR has discounted its annual passes for 2019 by \$40 which is the perfect gift for the hard-to-buy-for member of the family.

Through Dec. 31, individual passes are priced at \$200 and family passes at \$260. Annual passes may be purchased at either range and is valid at both shooting ranges.

Banner Range, between Indianola and Des Moines on Hwy. 65/69 in Warren County, is a multi-use shooting facility that offers a safe, clean shooting environment for handguns, rifles and shotguns. The range is staffed with professional certified range safety officers during all operating hours. Banner Range is open Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Wednesday and Thursday.

The completely renovated Butch Olofson Shooting Range, located off Hwy. 415, about five miles northwest of Polk City, features a new building, handgun, rifle, shotgun and archery ranges and more. The Olofson Range is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Monday and Tuesday.

Shooting ranges welcome shooters of all skill levels and abilities. Information on Iowa shooting ranges is available at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Places-to-Hunt-Shoot/Iowa-Shooting-Ranges>

Banner and Butch Olofson shooting ranges are closed January 1, Easter Sunday, July 4th, Thanksgiving Day, December 24 and December 25.